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# STATE OF UTAH

## UTAH STATE TAX COMMISSION

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

## **Multi-state car theft operators nabbed in Utah**

The Utah State Tax Commission's Motor Vehicle Enforcement Division (MVED) arrested two brothers in connection with an alleged multi-state auto theft ring, and more arrests are expected as the investigation continues.

Officers received a tip from a citizen who had purchased a vehicle from the brothers, only to later find that the VIN plate had been switched. A search warrant was issued, which resulted in the location of several stolen cars, worth almost \$100,000, although the investigation will likely turn up many more vehicles. Switching VIN plates and auto theft are 2<sup>nd</sup> degree felonies, each punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

All of the vehicles in question were reported stolen in the state of Florida but recovered in Utah. As a possible connection to the theft itself, both of the arrested individuals recently moved to Utah from Florida, where at least one of the men had a criminal past. Investigators are currently working with the Miami-Dade auto theft task force as the probe continues.

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